

Changes Affecting all Regulated Programs

- All child care facilities in operation prior to January 1, 2006, **including** religious-sponsored facilities operating under a Notice of Compliance, must have a compliance history of at least 75% by January 1, 2008.
- All child care facilities that begin operation on or after January 1, 2006, **including** all religious-sponsored facilities operating with a Notice of Compliance, must maintain a compliance history of 75%.

Proposed Rule Changes for a Voluntary Star Rated License

Any new child care facility that opens on or after January 1, 2006, and applies for a Two-Five Star license, will be assessed under the revised two component star rated license system. Star Ratings of Two-Five Stars will be based on the points earned in program standards and in staff education. An existing child care facility will have until January 1, 2008, to be assessed under the revised two component star rated license system. Below is a summary of the proposed rules text.

Proposed Total Points System (10A NCAC 09.2802):

The proposed point system would allow a program to earn up to seven (7) points in program standards, seven (7) points in staff education, and the option to earn one (1) quality point. The point spread continues to be fifteen (15) points under the proposed system. (*Proposed quality point will be discussed further below.*) In order to achieve a two through five star rating for a two component license, the minimum score achieved must be at least 4 points.

Total number of points	Rating
4 through 6	Two Star
7 through 9	Three Star
10 through 12	Four Star
13 through 15	Five Star

How is the new star rated license system different from the existing system? The proposed rules at the seven point level are the same as the existing rules at the five point level. So, if your program has currently earned 5 points in the program or education component, you would be meeting the rules at the 7 point level in the proposed rules. The changes described below are in the 2 through 6 point levels.

Proposed Changes to Child Care Center Rules:

Program Standards (10A NCAC 09 .2817 & .2818):

- Averaging of Environment Rating Scale (ERS) scores with no one classroom lower than 4.0 would be allowed
- Having an option to meet either the increased square footage or reduced staff/child ratios and still have the ERS completed would be allowed at the three point level.
- Programs would not have to meet increased square footage requirements until the 6 point level

Education Standards (10A NCAC 09 .2819):

- Increased work experience would no longer be counted instead of education at higher point levels
- Completed coursework is required at lower point levels
- More flexibility and opportunities to earn points for additional coursework hours have been added

Proposed Changes to Family Child Care Home Rules:

Program Standards (10A NCAC 09 .2821):

- National Accreditation is no longer an option. To earn three or more points, the Family Day Care Rating Scale (FDCRS) would have to be completed.
- Membership in a professional organization is no longer required.
- Smaller increments are proposed in the points level for FDCRS scores.

Education Standards (10A NCAC 09 .2822):

- Credit can be given at the higher point levels for completing course work in child care administration
- Increased work experience will no longer be counted instead of education at higher point levels

Opportunities to Achieve One Additional Quality Point

Proposed Quality Point Options (10A NCAC 09 .2823):

Child care operators may choose to meet additional education or programmatic criteria to earn one (1) quality point. This quality point will be added to the total points earned in program standards and staff education to determine the total number of stars earned.

Listed below is a sampling of proposed quality point options. You can assess a complete list of proposed rules text by visiting the Division's web site at www.nchildcare.net and on the left-hand side of the homepage click on the "Revised Rated License" tab.

Examples of Proposed Education options:

- 75% of center infant/toddler teachers have obtained an Infant/Toddler Certificate
- 100% of lead teachers, or 75% of teachers have completed an A.A.S or higher in early childhood education/child development
- 75% of group leaders have obtained a NC School Age Care Credential
- A family child care home provider has obtained an Infant/Toddler Certificate or has a BS/BA or higher in early childhood education/child development
- 20 additional annual in-service training hours for all center staff and home providers are completed

Examples of Proposed Programmatic options:

- Use of age/developmentally appropriate curriculum that addresses five domains of child development
- Smaller group size in centers
- Reduced staff/child ratios in centers
- Licensed capacity reduced to four preschool children in a family child care home
- Business training course completed for a family child care home provider

